



THE FRED L. SOPER LECTURES

COMplete eradication of certain communicable diseases is a concept that has enjoyed a degree of popularity among public health leaders from time to time over the past two centuries only to fall prey to problems which made it seem impractical. Today, however, this concept is not only widely discussed but also is being applied to practice. Its current popularity is in large measure due to the work of Dr. Fred L. Soper. He showed that the eradication concept was feasible.

IN 1959, when Soper retired as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and Regional Director for the Americas of the World Health Organization, his colleagues honored him by establishing the Fred L. Soper lectures. Five lectures were to be given over a period of 5 years in schools of public health in the Americas.

SOPER HIMSELF delivered the first lecture in October 1959 at the School of Hygiene and Public Health of Johns Hopkins University. Dr. George Macdonald, director of the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene and professor of tropical hygiene at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, gave the final lecture of the series at the University of Toronto School of Hygiene in February 1964.

THE OTHER LECTURES were given by Dr. Paulo C. A. Antunes, formerly Assistant Director, Pan American Sanitary Bureau, in December 1960 at the Faculty of Hygiene and Public Health, University of São Paulo, Brazil; by Dr. Manuel Martínez Baez, formerly director of the School of Public Health, University of Mexico, in November 1961 at the School of Public Health of Santiago, Chile; and by Dr. José Alvarez Amézquita, formerly Minister of Health and Welfare of Mexico, and Dr. Guillermo E. Samamé, formerly Zone II Representative of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, in October 1962 at the University of Mexico School of Public Health, Mexico City.

TWO OF THESE outstanding lectures are presented in this issue of *Public Health Reports*. Soper's points out his development and refinement of the eradication concept through his work in yellow fever and other diseases, and Macdonald's illustrates how this concept is being applied today to the prevention of malaria throughout the world.

The photographs used by Public Health Reports to illustrate the lectures of Dr. Soper and Dr. Macdonald were supplied by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.